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Entered January 27, 1903, at Rich mond, Va., as second-class matter, un-der act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1905.

There are but two ways of rising in the world—either by one's own industry or profiting by the foolishness of others.—LA BRUVERE.

#### The State Debt.

The report of the Second Auditor of Virginia on the condition of the public debt, the literary fund and the sinking fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1905, is just issued. The statement of the debt is thus summarized:

Principal.
\$17,687,699 99 Century bonds bearing \$12,610 30 

debt, principal and interest, on July 1, 1871, as reported by the Second Auditor September 30, 1872, was \$45,718,leaving the debt of Virginia proper \$30,-The literary fund of the State amounts to \$1,881,027,28. The State ulso holds West Virginia certificates amounting to \$2.020,139.49. These certisentes are held by the sinking fund comnissieners, but the sinking fund now olds no Virginia bonds and only about 126,000 in cash, the money having been used from time to time in purchasing tioney now available from year to year for the sinking fund is the dividend arising from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad stock, owned and destroy,

At the date of the previous annual report of the Second Auditor, the sink- style, ing fund held \$1,....509. The sum of E01,500 was added to this, making a total of \$1,313.000, with which bonds were purchased and cancelled and the debt reduced accordingly. This makes all told a total cancellation of \$10,771,791.59, of State bonds as follows:

Of Issue of old unfunded.....

dered by the United States in the	
settlement made with them on	
April 2 and 4, 1900	591,800 (4)
Of issue of March 2, 1808	3,560 00
Of issue of March 39, 1871	43,020 27
Of issue of March 7, 1872	5,817,157 63
Of issue of March 28, 1879	294,381 81
Of issue of February 14, 1932	8,305,507 85
Of Issue of February 39, 1993	971,157 26

\$19,771,791 49 These bonds were for the most part purchased when the debt question was being agitated. The interest on the boing agitated. The interest on the should possess refinement and certainly boing was not paid and the money which accuracy interest on the elements of humanity—stare, even the state has paid out in round numbers \$55,000,000 in interest on the public debt. Judge John G. Dew, Second Auditor, who has given this subject in a sensitive concerning his directs as the large and certainly should possess refinement and certainly so the state of the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess refinement and certainly so the possess refinement and certainly so the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess refinement and certainly so the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess refinement and certainly so the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess refinement and certainly so the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess refinement and certainly and the properties of the physical defects of others! Is this less crued than the infliction of physical possess certainly state of the physical defects of others! Is the physical defects of others! Is the physical possess crued than the infliction of physical possess crued than the physical d Auditor, who has given this subject intelligent care and patriotic consideration,
will recommend the re-enactment of the
not providing that the sinking fund comcrue at least \$300,000 a year for the sink- are? ing fund, and he has made a calculation which shows that with an appropriation a year for ten years, and \$160,000 a year for twenty years, by the year 1950 the

extinguished. We hope that Judge Dew's recombuildeth for another. If it were not perhaps you do not so regard it, but so the human race would surely retrois our business to lighten the burdens of generations to follow, and to do what we ercate a sinking fund to extinguish the generations to come may continue.

part, but we shall have to addition the made to, or at, some passer-by-often a statisfaction of knowing that we are dis- ragged or decrept old negro-sometimes charging an honest obligation to pos-

the full assessed value of the land as well, as is often the case, he is undoubtedly unjustly taxed, but if the holder of the note or bond, there would apparently be no injustice to him, for he derives the evidence of debt pays the tax on the benefit from the loan in the way of interest, and if he had invested in something else—sheep, cattle or horses, for example—he would have been required to pay taxes upon them.—Fredericksburs Free Lance.

But two wrongs do not make a right and do you not see that in taxing the mortgage you make the borrover pay the tax? He pays it in the increased rate of interest. Suppose our contemporary should nt 6 per cent. Interest. Suppose the tax rate in Fredericksburg is \$1.50. The lender would receive for his loan a net income of 41/2 per cent. But suppose real estate loans-or mortgages, if you prefer the term-were exempt from taxation, the lender could let his money out at 41/2 per cent, and receive the same net income.

Deduction-If mortgages in Fredericks burg were exempt from taxation, would not the rate of interest on real estate loans come down?

Now, reverse the case. Suppose mortgages were exempt from taxation, and as a the rate of inserest on real estate loans were 41/2 per cent. Suppose a law were then enacted imposing a tax of \$1.50 on mortgages, would not the rate of interest e advanced to 6 per cent.? And if so, who would pay the tax? It is the borrower who catches it every time, and he is the man we would help. Of course, it sounds well to talk of taxing the bloater bondholder, but the bloated bondholder usually manages to take care of himself. He makes the borrower pay the tax for him. We want to take the tax from the in order to relieve the borrower of the burden.

#### The Inhumanity of Man.

Despite the rapid strides we are no Despite the rapid strices of the compleshing in the race toward higher elvilization, it is to be feared that some generations yet must come and go ere nanked shall be fully imbued with what we may term plain humanity, e

Humanity in business is much to be

desired, but that is at the far end of so many contrary human passions that it can be placed only among the things to be oped for in the remote future when changed times and conditions shall have produced changed hearts, and evolution to be a most unlucky illustration for inder directions of the Divine Hand shall have taken us a long way on toward the conditions of the promised millenium. What it would seem should be within the range of reasonable hope at a lesser inter-val is humanity of pleasuse. But is it

It is true, we have advanced somewhat since those days in "merry old England." when a public hanging was a public holi-day, and even since those more recent days in stern New England when witch-Auditor September 30, 1872, was \$45,718. burning and the ducking-stool afforded 112,23, of which there was set aside as diversion to a besotted citizenry. The West Virginia's proportion \$15,232,370,74, duello, too, has taken its place among the grim scenery of a primitive past while cock-fighting has palled upon all but the coarsest natures, and the once mighty champion of the fistic arena is rapidly finding his place among the ser-

we yet not a long way from our goal?

Wealth bows its curied and purfumed head to the tailless horse and pours its hoard into the lap of the shameless brute without rhyme, reason, or aught but ghoulish greed, multilates away from the dumb beast that defence which God has given him against the insects of the earth, which lordly man himself so dreads and so plots to escape world is busily engaged in providing deby the State, and amountig to \$42,111 a fence for man against this nefarious, ubiquitous, and apparently indestructable insectivora, these votaries of luxury-of God pity the mark!-are paying their substance to criminals to deprive the horse of the natural defense which nature, guided by the hand of in-finite wisdom itself, has found it good to

> which it would be difficult to find any vinication or excuse. Even cock-fighting tation, but what good, in example or deed what possible benefit to man or beast, can be found in this wanton brutality to man's best friend, that noblest, most beautiful and attractive of all animals, the superb horse! Are we highly civilized as long as such brutality is not only permitted, but rewarded.

But worse than this even is our inhu-

should possess refinement and certainly missioners might use the surplus reve- afflictions? If you were cross-eyed would nussioners might use the surplus reve-nues of the State in purchasing out-standing bonds. Judge Dew says that humbly thankful that we are not ourif this measure be re-enacted, there will gelves afflicted and try to lessen, rather

We frequently hear small men desigof \$00,000 a year for ten years, \$30,000 these appellations usually provoke a

It is universally admitted that personal remark are fude, but they are very, very much more; they are cruel. 

Children should be especially taught, can, in frirmess to ourselves, to improve the sake of humanity, that all uncom their condition. To that end we should only rude but cruel. There is enough suffering in this world which cannot debt by and by; we should give the be escaped without our inflicting wound children as good school facilities as we unnecessarily. Children should be so can afford, and we should begin a taught at home and in the schools, and system of road improvement which the their seniors should illustrate precept with example. Yet how often do we see grown people smile at the rude re-marks of a thoughless or untaught child, a refined but unfortunate white woman? The giving of alms does not atone for

Who Pays the Tax?

If the real estate owner who secures a loan upon his land is required to pay the lax about the evidence of debt and layers one. By a kind ward a friendly

wounds like these

It is best to be charltable in and deed, but if we can't or don't do this, then by all means, let us at least be hu-Let us not by careless words and acts inflict pain when it does not and can-not benefit us or any one cise.

It has been said generally that swearing is the most useless sin. But is it so? Swearing only injures the swearer. Infinitely worse useless is that sin which wantonly inflicts pain upon the helpless and afflicted and can in no wise benefit any In the latter case the crime is

At this season of good cheer it may be well for us to fortify ourselves in a re-membrance of these facts, that neither by word nor deed we may give others et us remember that both cruelty and arity may consist as well in words as deeds. On various points religious reeds may differ, but this one sentiment s orthodox to all mankind.

#### An Artful Dodger.

An Artitul Dodger.

Here goes our acrobatic contemporary again in his continuous circle performance. The horse which he mounted by way of variation and relief in his monotonous continuols performance of arguing in a circle, he now abandons and spurns as a quibble. Well, it was his horse, not ours. He introduced it, and we accepted it merely for the sake of argument and to expose the absurdity of his filustration, leave Appeal.

Not a bit of it. The horse is yours not ours. You trotted him into the discussion, and you must not disown him simply because he reared up and fell back on you. You introduced the horse in this exact language:

in this exact language:

"That paper asks us if A had simply made a verbal promise to repay to C the borrowed sum, with interest, would we tax that promise? What puerility! We should not, of course, tax the promise, but we would tax C on his \$2,500 that he had loaned to A on the promise to return it with interest, just as we would tax C on a horse which he had loaned to A on a promise that the horse would be returned with the price of the hire."

We replied that if the horse should be in A's lands on February 1st, he would

in A's hands on February 1st, he would be assessed against A, and A would pay the tax. We asked you if you would tax the horse against C also. We also asked if you would tax C on the written promise of A to return the horse, or equive lent, at a given date. No wonder you you can't saddle him off on The Times-Dispatch. It is your illustration, and you must ride it as best you can.

We understand that the Board of Agiculture has ample power without additional legislation to employ a newspaper man to prepare and send out to the press matter pertaining to the farming industry. Commissioner Koiner likes the it. Such a man would be ureful in other ways, and his services are greatly need-Mr. Koiner has more work than two men could do successfully.

suit of the election in New York is not changed and on January 1st, all the city and borough officers-elect will be sworn into office. The reports finally submitted give McClellan a plurality over Heart

In 1872 seats on the New York Stock Exchange sold for \$4,000 each. Recently a seat sold as high as \$05,000. The man who purchased a seat thirty years ago would have made a snug little fortune, if he had done nothing but sit in it,

worse than it used to be; the difference is that it is harder these days to keep from being found out. Hurrah for the news-

Mrs. Burnett says there are always two ways of looking at a thing, and frequently six or seven. Yes, indeed, madam, especially in eggang season.

Railroad travel has picked up smartly during the past few days. Passes for 1965 have a few days of grace.

Let us remember that the poor hay a way of getting cold and hungry after the Christmas festival.

Anybody want to exchange a second lawn mower for a bunch of sill

# And Then He Went.

Little Brother (to sister who is gitting with her flame)—Do you know what I think?

Sister—No; what is it

'I think if I were not in the room Mr. Jones would kiss you!"

"You impudent boy! Leave the room instantly.—Translated for Tales from "Meggendorfer Blatter."

# Christened.

"Over in Holland, it is said," grimly remarked the villager who had been rolled in the dust by a rampant pull-wagon, "they call an automobile a snellpaarelooszoondeerspoorwespitrolriytung; and, by thunder, so do 1-and 1 add a bamdam-uality to ... too!"-Puck.

## Family Grammar.

Rodney-Do you have trouble with Dickey-Nope; my wife says "you shall," and I say "I will."-Puck.

# AILING PEOPLE-Try the Bitters.

It has restored hundreds of sickly peo-ple to robust health during its 52 years Will attend the online system and core
Heartburn, Bloating, Naussa, Poor Appetite, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Chilis, Colds, Grippe, or Maisria,
Try it to-day, also ask your druggist for
a, free copy of our 1906 Almanac.

# HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.



# IRHYMES FOR TO DAY

Tommy Jawson, operator, Sickened of his job-Vowed one day to his creator. He had been a cob, Swore that he had found a greater Rule of life than Rob,

Tommy Jawson told the nation, Finance was a shame, Said that market operation Was & crooked game— Moaned his own participation, 'Fessed his carly blame.

'Crooked dealers-let us twist 'em' -Poor, soft woolly lambs-enlist 'em,
'Neath my banner-quick!
Then observe Me buck the system,
Me, who know the trick."

Tommy Jawson bucked the system, And they bucked him back; And though Tommy somehow

'em'emNot so they, alack!
For they scooped, ere he could twist 'em

fommy, reft of all his plunder Tolling, ret of all ris planter, Minus ways and means. Chucked the game and—do you wonder?-Quit financial scenes, For a life of blood and thunder,

In the magazines,

# Merely Joking

Sour Grapes.—"Why doesn't Mrs. Yung-wife make her husband buy her a few diamonds?" "She says she considers dia-monds vulgar." "Goodness! are they that poor?"—Chicago Sun.

His Observation.-"Did you ever said the man who attends freal exhibitions, "that 'most mind-readers are women." "No," answered the man who is in awe of his wife. "But I have noticed women are mind-readers."-Washington Star.

Cynical.—"Curious idea, this transmi-gration of souls," said the man who reads profound things superficially, "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "If I thought some human beings I know could possibly be transfigured into animals, I should be nearly as fond of pets as I am." Vashington Stur.

She Had Him -- Miss Ann Thrope: I was She Had Him.—Miss Ann Intope: I was shocked to hear you were married. I wouldn't marry the best man on earth. Mrs. Newbride: Hin! He never gave you a chance. He assures me I was the only girl he ever proposed to.—Phila-delphia Ledger.

Mere Courtesy.—"Why do you call Mrs. De Vose your auntie? She isn't really any relation to you, is she?" "Np," replied the sweet child, "I suppose not. really, but she and mamma have both been married to the same man."—Chicago Record-Herald.

#### Print Company of the second THIS DAY IN HISTORY December 28th.

1278-Injunction of the Primate of Eng-

601-The town of Kinsale, head of the

694-Mary H., Queen of Zigland, died of smallpox, aged thirty-three. She had reigned six years in conjunction with William III., and was greatly extelled for her virtues.

1758-The French settlement of Gore taken by the British Admiral Keppel. 1737-Singular sinking and rising of land at Scarborough, in Yorkshire, Eng-

1829-Georgia refused to allow the Indians to set up an independent government in that State

1835-Samuel Con patented revolving fivearms. 1854—England, France and Austria signed

a protocol relording the interpretation fixed by the allies to the four points 1860-South Carolina selzed the govern-

property in Charleston, took posses-sion of Cartle Pinckney and Fort Monttrie.

1-A fight took place at Mount Zion,
Boone county, Mo.; the Confederates
were dispersed with considerable loss
in killed, wounded and prisoners.
Union loss, three killed and cleven

in killed, wounded and prisoners.
Union loss, three killed and cleven
wounded.

1862—The Unionists drove the Confederates from the first and second lines
of defense and advanced to within
two and a half miles of Vicksburg.
General Bunt entered Van Buren,
Ark., capturing four steamboats inden
with provisions.

1854—Reports were sent out from New
Orleans of successful raids made on

1884—Reports were sent out from New Orleans of successful raids made on guerilla camps by Union soldiers.

1868—France myited Russia to attend the Eastern Conference.

1874—There was much turmoll in Mexico over the government suppression of the religious orders.

1994—Russo-Japanese War; Japanese Capture Ribling fort and now have Port Arthur at their mercy; thousands of men lost in assault.

# How Phonocards are Made. Consul-General Quenther, of Frankfori, Germany, reports that the so-called phonocard is finding much favor in France, and furnishes the following description of the novelly, which is taken from newspapers: For producing the phonographic postal card an apparatus is used which records the human voice upon a piece of pasteboard of the form of the card. According to one report the phonocard possesses numericus advantages. The recording of the voice is done by an ordinary phonotraph of simple construction, by means of a pencial with a sapphire point. This pencil makes its impression upon a suitable substance called "coorine" spread upon the surface of the card. The "sonorine," which can be sailly spread over pasteboard, possesses all the properties of a wax cylcinder, and is in reality the investion. The signs are impressed in form of a spiral, beginning at the margin of the card and ending in a very small circus and are impressed as decipt that the significant typ postal authorities can only desired two or three words. The card has seen in the card and seeding in a very small circus typ postal authorities can only desired two How Phonocards are Made.

# PLAN \$800,000 BRIDAL GIFT FOR MISS ALICE

# Subscriptions Limited to Ten Cents From Eight Million

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, December 27.—Society and officialdom were amused and a little shocked to-day by a dispatch from laker City, Ore., telling of the inauguration of a great popular subscription for a wedding gift to Miss Roesevelt.
The scheme is to open lists in each

at weedling gift to Miss Roosevelt.

The scheme is to open lists in each State, limiting individual subscriptions to 10 cents; transmit the sums collected to the various State treasurers, and finally to the Secretary of the Treasury, to be turned ever to the bride on the day of her marriage to Congressman Longworth. The promoters—who are not announced—suggest the modest total of \$500,000.

No one has yet had the courage to ask what is thought at the White House of this quaint chullition of friendly interest in the President's daughter.

Object to Popular Present. CINCINNATI, December 27.—"The very idea!" Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, mother of Congressman Longworth, who is to marry Alice Roosevelt, is reported to have said when told of the proposition from Oregon to raise an \$800,000 ffand by popular subscription as a wedding present for Miss Roosevelt. It is said both she and her daughter object to the plan.

## President Disapproves.

President Disapproves.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, December 27.—A press dispatch from Baker City, Oregon, announced that a ten-cent subscription was to be started in Oregon and extend over the country for the purpose of raising a sum which probably would aggregate \$80,000, to be presented to Mins Alice to Representative Nicholas Longworth. The President disapproves of the proposition as is indicated by the following statement issued from the White House to-day:

The President's attention having bee "The President's attention having been called to the dispatch from Baker City, Oregon, to the effect that a subscription was about to be started for a wedding present for M'ss Roosevelt, the President stated that while he appreciated this evidence of good-will be hoped nothing of the kind would be undertaken. In fact, he wished particularly that the proposed work should not be done."

#### EXPLOSION ON VESSEL.

Skipper Was Killed and Great Hole Blown in Ship's Side.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
NEWPORT NEWS, VA., December,
-As the two-masted schooner, Emma,
vas approaching Darling's Wharf in 27.—As the two-masted schooner, Emma, was approaching Darling's Whart in Hampton Creek this afternoon about 1 o'clock, a gaseline tan kexploded, folling Captain A. T. Nottingham, the skipper, and blowing a great hole in the skide of the vessel. Captain Nottingham is supposed to have been smoking near the tank, which contained gaseline for an auxiliary engine. The skipper's mangled body was found in the hold, where it had been blown by the force of the explosion. Death had come instantaneously.

taneously.
Captain Nottingham is survived by a widow and several children, who live on Lee Street, Hampton. He came to Hampton from the Eastern shore several years ago. The schooner is owned by John Foster, of Buckroe, and is used in the oystering trade.

## SUBURBAN RESIDENTS.

Southern Railway Offers Inducements to Lynchburg People, (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) AMHERST, VA., December 27,-T

AMHERST, VA., December 7..—1ne Southern Railway Company has decided to sell commutation tickets from Am-herst to, Lynchburg and return, Under this arrangement, fifty-two trips at month between Amherst and Lynchburg, a distance of fourteen miles, will cost only \$5.10. It is believed that this will result by a great many of the lastiness only \$5.30. It is beneved that this win result in a great many of the business people of Lynchburg living at Amberst, where rent and living expenses are cheaper as under the good schedule now existing between this point and Lynchburg, they could readily go to Lynchburg in the morning and return to their homes here in the afternoon, thereby being enabled to combine the pleasure of life in a rural village with the business opportunities of town.

Charged With Girl's Death.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
POCAHONTAS, VA., December 27,—
Benjamin Read has been arrested charged
with the murder of his sister. Eliza Pead,
who was found dead in her home near
Pocahontas last week, having been struck
in the head with an nx+ or some launt In the head with an axe or some blunt instrument. The preliminary trial is in progress and the evidence against the accused seems to be very damaging. The case will no doubt be sent up to the great they

## Skeleton in Mountains.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WYTHEVILLE, VA., December WARTHEY HELD, VA., December 21.—
The skeleton of a man was found near Chric's Summit in the east end of Wyths yesterday, all the flesh was off and the clothing about falling to pieces, indication are that the man was killed with a sit, gun There is nothing as yet to suggest who the party was or the perpetrator of the crime.

Counting His Chickens. Jack Senior-How many times have you been plucked? Dick Junior-Four times, counting next commencement. "Famile-Journal,

# Poultry Supplies.

If you want eggs during the winter, you must feed Animal Foods, such as

Meat Meal, Beef Scraps, Blood Meal, Bone Meal,

to take the place of the insects, worms, etc., which poultry get in summer. OYSTER SHELLS and GRIT are also prime necessities. Write for Prices and Catalogue tell-ing what to use for Success and Profit with Poultry.

T.W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen, RICHMOND, . VIRGINIA.

carry complete stocks of Cyphers numbetors and Brooders. Poultry Poods. Eng Producers, Lice and Insect Powders, Poultry Remedies, etc. Helpful Catalogue mailed free,

# CASTORIA

#### for Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision for over 30 years. Allow no one to deceive you in this. Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments, and endanger the health of Children - Experience against Experiment.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of In Use For Over 30 Years.

# A Believer in Palmistry.

By GEORGE G. MAGNUS.

I opened my hand and studied it for a long time.

"I don't appear to possess the line in question," I said at last.
"I can well understand your surprise," she retorted. "Juuging from the length of your search, you certainly expected to find it!"

"I always try to oblige a lady," I murmured, feebly.

As I apple a sudder the (Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles,)
"Do endeavor to be sensible, Mr. Graham!" said Miss Muriel O'Connell, severely, "If it's only for a few minutes it
will be good practice for you," she added, opening wide her fan.

I sighed audibly. Miss Muriel's fan is
nothing more or loss than a feather
screen, behind which she takes a cruel
delight in hiding upon the filmsiest excuse. Three whole precious minutes
having been wasted—
"All right, I'll try. Please remove the
partition."

partition."
The feathers slowly disclosed two laughing blue eyes, "Listen, Mr. Graham!"
The first dreamy bars of the "Blue Danube" floated into the conservatory, I said to myself-well, something unworthy of repetition. I said aloud; "Now, I suppose, I must take you back?"
A dimple appeared-such a dimple!
"You de look unhappy!"
'I look what I feel, 'suid I. "I've only seen you twice durning the last ten minutes. I shan't see you again probably for a week, and now I have to hand you over to some chap who won't aprecidency, where the say "Begin all over again," Miss Murici

"Begin all over again," Miss Murici suggested, encouragingly.
"I say, can't you give him the sip?"
She gazed at me thoughtfully for a full minte. It was twelfuly joily. Miss Murici has the sweetest eyes in the world.
"I consider you a sad tempter." she remarked, abruptly.
"That's the nicest thing you said this evening!"

marked, abruptly.

"That's the nicest thing you said this evening!"

She took my word for it, and smiled demurely, I took her programme to make the necessary correction. Then it was I discovered, with bitter chagrin, the scrawling initials of one, Adolphus Sooner, affixed to the dance I had appropriated. Spooner is wthout exception the worst waltzer and the biggest ass I know. I recalled my last observation. Miss Muriel laughed. Then a silence fell between us. I divided my attention impartially between gazing at my companion, who seemed to be deriving untimited pleasure from dissecting a fragment of paim, and my patent-leather shoes. At last her selfish pre-occupation irritate me beyond endurance.

"I have a book on botany at home," I becan, reproachfully.

She threw away what remained of the leaf. Then a brilliant idea selzed me. I fancy it owed its origin to Miss Muriel's late plaything, for brilliant ideas and I are, unhapplity on scarcely visiting terms. "Are you a believer in palmistry?"

"What do you know about it, Mr. Graham?"

I knew that in order to correctly read

what that in order to correctly read Miss Murlel's paim, it would be necessary to hold her hand in mine. Miss Murlel's hand is just made for this treat-

Muriel's hand is just made for this treatment.

"Everything worth knowing." I answered, truthfully.

"I have never had my hand read," she remarked, indifferently, "but I know girls who have. Those who have been told nice things believe in it fervently."

"Surely you have no fear of joining the unbellevers, Miss o Connell? Come, allow me to convert you."

To my joy Miss Muriel began to unbutton her glove. I surrestitiously removed both of mine, and offered her assistance, with, I am afraid, a sad absence of tact

both of mine, and offered her assistance, with, I am afraid, a sad absence of tact. Miss Murlel put out her hand an inch at a time.

"I'm not a schoolmaster." I hastened to assure her.

The hand came a wee bit nearer. I selzed it firmly with my left and covered it with my right.

"Is there any necessity," she began, indignantity.

tient, "Well!"

I began to trace the lines with the tip
of my finger, inwardly praying that it
was the right thing to do, Miss Muriel
laughed most provokingly. I looked at
her sternly.

r sternly. 'T—Ican't help it," she cried: "you tickle ao!"
Ah, I see, I will be more careful in ure. You have a very pretty-I mean, very well-balanced hand, Miss O'Conl, I noté you are honest, upright, ar-headed, temperate-"
You are converting me yery rapidly!"

clear-headed, temperate—"
"You are converting me very rapidly!"
"I was going to tell you a lot more nice
things. Now you have put them complotely out of my head." (Miss Muriel
sighed deeply.) "You will be pleased to
hear that you are not likely to steal anything-save the hearts of mero men."
This little twirly line round the thumb
denotes that your temper is even; when
roused hasty, and soon over; when fully
roused—well—I think I had better get on
with the fate line. A rather uncertain
fate is shown. But it will turn out all
right—provided you do a certain thing.
Next we come to the heart line—did you
speak?"
"Merely smiled."

speak?"
"Merely smiled."
"It was a very audible smile," said I, severely "The heart line shows up very strong. You will have a very large heart, Miss O'Connell."

strong. You will have a very large heart, Miss O'Connell."

"I must see a doctor about it."

"I shoud advise a specialist! To continue, it is clear that you prefer giving it away in driblots to a large army of hungry admirers, rather than—"

"Pray don't stop. I should never have believed you could be so entertaining."

"Please don't interrupt!—rather than giving it wholly to one. Further it is shown that the possessor of this much coveted little hand is not above carrying on a flirtation—"

"What girl is, Mr. Grahem " pleaded Miss Muriel,
"Valit!" I said, sternly. Not above carrying on a flirtation with a man—"

"Oh, no, not with a man" she cried in horror.

"With a man who loves here!" I con-

horror. "With a man who loves hera!" I conwith a man who loves here. Team chided.

Miss Muriel snatched away her hand and sprang to her feet.

"How dare you say such a thing!" she cried, her blue eyes flashing. "I shall return to the ball-room, I prefer dencing with Mr. Spooner."

"Have some pity!" I implored. "I'm sure you wouldn't have me tell you things that were not true."

"Which line told you what you just dared to say."

"If you will come a little closer."

"No, you can moint it out an your own."

"I always try to oblige a lady," I murmured, feebly.

As I spoke a sudden idea seemed to seize her, for she sanied and sat down again. I lost no time in following her good example. A slight pause ensued.
"Suppose you let me read your hand," she said, abrupily.
"I—I beg your pardon? Why, you don't know anything about it!"
"Give me your hand."
"I wish you would give me yours."
Miss Muriel ignored my want, and with fine scorn, exclaimed: "You are afraid:"
Whereupon I held out my hand. Miss Muriel took it very carefully—no covering it, or anything of that sort.
"I will start with the heart line, as that seems the most highly developed." she began in business-like tones. "I note you possess an enlarged heart. I further observe that affection for the fair sex en masse, is the cause. It appears that you consider any start in the cause.

observe that affection for the fair sex of masse, is the cause. It appears that you cannot resist any girl that smiles on you.

• • I regret to see that your heart is also incapable both of giving and retaining affection for longer than an ordinary holiday. You must have change. It is perhaps due to your impressionablenoss that you have such a failing for proposing, almost at sight."

She paused for breath, and, dabbing my brow with my handkerchief. I selzed ing, almost at sight!"

She paused for breath, and, dabbing my brow with my handkerchief, I selzed the opportunity to inquire: "To which line do I owe all this, please?"

"This fat, curly one." she answered,

calmly. "Thanks, I must see if I can't have it

calmy.
"Thanks, I must see if I can't have it altered."
"I don't see what difference that will make to your heart, she observed.
"I din't say I wanted to alter my heart," I said, stiffy. "Indeed, I have only loved one girl in my life, and I have only proposed once in my life.
"Oh, Mr. Graham!"
Miss Muriel drew hastily away from me and opened her objectionable fan.
"What reason have you for doubting my statement-for saying 'Oh. Ifa that?" asked rather cleverly, gaining possession of my enemy.
"I will tell you. Didn't you propose to Miss Mathews the very same day you honored me?" I inquired with interest.

"Before or after?" I inquired with interest.

"You would know that best," she answered, frigidly.
"Undoubtedly! And that girl told you this—and you believed it?"
"She didn't exactly tell me."
"Insinuated it?"
"I understood that such was the case."
"Ah! These dear girls! Would! you mind my asking whether she accepted the honor? I'm sure you will pardon my inquisitiveness on this point."

My companien, ignoring my anxious question, pulled her wrap over her beautiful shoulders. Then she rose, tugging on her long glove with feverish haste.
"I am engaged to Mr. Roberts for this noxt dance," she said, somewhat irrelevantly.

She lurged on her heel. I took a quick

"I am engage next dance," she said, somewhat irresevantly.

She turned on her heel. I took a quick step after her and caught her round the waist.

"Mr. Graham! How dare you! Release me this moment!"

this moment!" fot until you have answered my ques-"Not until you have answered by tions."

I drew her to me resisting her face crimosn, her blue eyes blazing.

"Now, tell me," I said, "do you still believe that lie? Oh, if a man had uttered it. " " When you refused me, you gave me some hope. Has what that girl told you made you treat me as you have been treating me. His en overgrown schoolboy who doesn't know his own mind! Lastly, do you care for Mr. Roberts? You shall tell me! I can't go on like this; I must know whether there is any chance for me now. Oh, Muriel! Tell me, "It's absolutely essential," said I, with unruffled serenty.
Miss Muriel's scorn was very complete.
"How absurd! You can't see my palm."
Being forced to admit the truth of this statement I reluctantly uncovered the hand, and, in order to collect my thoughts gazed long and fixedly at the little pink lines, I found them very fascinating.
"Well?" inquired Miss Muriel, impatient, "Well!"
I began to trace the lines with the tip

return, and if you don't, if you can't I swear by all I hold dear, never to cross your path again."

Then I released her—but she did not leave me. She was arembling from head to foot. Was it with anger? I raised her neet my eyes. I held them! I looked into her very soul, and as I looked. "Murie!" I whispered, "Murie!, my sweetheart!"

A little later we were seated behind the patms again. But how different was the grouping!

"Do you think he will mind very much?"

"He ought to, by Jove! But don't think about such things as Mr. Rober's; let's think of nothing but ourselves."

"I—I certainly misread your character," she said, softly, "I sever thought you could look flerce, or be so masterful. I always thought—"

"Yes, I know," I interposed, with some

always thought."
"Yes, I know," I interposed, with some faste. "But palmistry is a science, you know."
"Fiddlesticks!" cried Miss Muriel, rude-

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